

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (currently amended): A lifter comprising:

at least ~~two~~ four side support brackets, each said side support bracket comprising an upper end[,] and a lower end, ~~and a clamp for attachment to a surface;~~

at least ~~one~~ two cross support ~~beam~~ beams, each said beam comprising an adjustable length and opposing ends[,] and connectedly disposed to said side support brackets;

~~a plurality of lifting mechanisms~~ a lifting mechanism comprising a transmission shaft and at least one clamp or hook for attachment to a slate surface, said transmission shaft connecting said at least two cross support beams; and

~~a transmission shaft; and~~

a power source connected to said transmission shaft capable of applying torque to said transmission shaft.

2. (original): The lifter of claim 1 wherein each said cross support beam is in proximate relationship with said upper end of two said side support brackets.

3. (currently amended): The lifter of claim 1 wherein each said ~~at least one~~ cross support beam is disposed in a perpendicular relationship to said side support brackets.

4. (previously presented): The lifter of claim 1 wherein a height of said side support brackets is adjustable.

5. (original): The lifter of claim 1 wherein a length of said transmission shaft is adjustable.

6. (previously presented): The lifter of claim 1 comprising six side support brackets.

7. (original): The lifter of claim 5 comprising three cross support beams.
8. (cancelled)
9. (currently amended): The lifter of claim 1 wherein said support brackets additionally comprise a leg extension to extend below an upper surface of a cabinet frame.
10. (previously presented): The lifter of claim 1 wherein said side support brackets additionally comprise a support foot attached to and adjacent said lower end of said side support brackets.
11. (previously presented): The lifter of claim 1 additionally comprising side support beams attached in perpendicular planar configuration with said side support brackets.
12. (previously presented): The lifter of claim 11 wherein said side support beams are adjustably connected to said side support brackets wherein said overall length of said lifter is thereby adjustable.
13. (currently amended): The lifter of claim 1 wherein said side support brackets comprise an upper assembly having a support frame opening provided for inserting one of said cross beams therethrough.
14. (previously presented): The lifter of claim 13 wherein said side support brackets additionally comprise upper and lower cross beam guides adjacent said opening.
15. (previously presented): The lifter of claim 13 additionally comprising a side support bracket brace having a side support frame hole for receipt of a cross beam table width adjustment pin.

16. (currently amended): The lifter of claim 15 wherein said ~~at least one~~ cross support ~~beam~~ ~~comprises~~ beams comprise a plurality of adjustment holes disposed near each of said opposing ends for receipt of said cross beam table width adjustment pin.

17. (currently amended): The lifter of claim 1 wherein said ~~at least one~~ cross support ~~beam~~ beams and said side support brackets are foldable in a storage configuration.

18. (currently amended): The lifter of claim 1 wherein said lifting mechanism comprises:
at least one winch;
said transmission shaft disposed through ~~each~~ said at least one winch;
a plurality of pulleys;
at least one cable running through each of said pulleys and through said at least one
winch, said cable having opposing ends; and
said at least one clamp or hook attached to at least one said end of each said cable.

19. (original): The lifter of claim 18 wherein said transmission shaft is non-circular.

20. (currently amended): The lifter of claim 18 wherein said pulleys ~~are~~ comprise drop pulleys.

21. (currently amended): The lifter of claim 18 ~~additionally~~ wherein said at least one clamp or
hook comprises a spring loaded clamp or hook.

22. (currently amended): The lifter of claim 18 wherein said at least one winch is disposed at an approximate midpoint of ~~each~~ at least one of said cross support ~~beam~~ beams.

23. (currently amended): The lifter of claim 22 wherein said plurality of pulleys are disposed at points on said ~~at least one~~ cross support ~~beam~~ beams interposed between said midpoint of said ~~at least one~~ cross support ~~beam~~ beams and a point of intersection of said ~~at least one~~ cross support ~~beam~~ beams and said side support brackets.

24. (original): The lifter of claim 23 wherein at least two pulleys are disposed on each said cross support beam.

25. (original): The lifter of claim 18 wherein said at least one cable is disposed through said at least one winch and at least one pulley.

26. (original): The lifter of claim 18 wherein said transmission shaft comprises a near end connected to said power source.

27. (original): The lifter of claim 18 wherein said power source for torquing said shaft is selected from the group consisting of a motor and a manually generated force.

28. (previously presented): The lifter of claim 18 further comprising:

- a worm gear disposed at a near end of said power transmission shaft;
- a noncircular bore formed in said worm gear, said bore attachable to said transmission shaft in a manner to provide transfer of torque to said shaft;
- a worm;
- a crank handle having a crank end and a connection end, said handle attached to said worm at said connection end; and
- said worm positioned in relationship to said worm gear to transfer torque from said crank handle to said worm gear.

29. (currently amended): The lifter of claim 18 wherein said at least one winch comprises a double drum winch.

30. (currently amended): The lifter of claim 18 wherein one of said at least one winch disposed nearest said power source comprises a master winch.

31. (currently amended): The lifter of claim 18 wherein said at least one winch has an internal mechanism preventing reverse movement of said cable without engaging a manual release switch.

32 – 41 (cancelled)

42. (currently amended): A lifter comprising:

at least ~~two~~ four side support ~~brackets~~ brackets, each said side support bracket comprising an upper end, a lower end, and a leg extension to extend below an upper surface of a cabinet frame;

at least ~~one~~ two cross support beam beams, each said beam comprising an adjustable length and opposing ends, and connectedly disposed to said side support brackets;

~~a plurality of lifting mechanisms~~ a lifting mechanism comprising a transmission shaft, said transmission shaft connecting said at least two cross support beams; and

~~a transmission shaft; and~~

a power source connected to said transmission shaft capable of applying torque to said shaft.

43. (previously presented): The lifter of claim 42 wherein each said cross support beam is in proximate relationship with said upper end of two said side support brackets.

44. (currently amended): The lifter of claim 42 wherein each said ~~at least one~~ cross support beam is disposed in a perpendicular relationship to said side support brackets.

45. (previously presented): The lifter of claim 42 wherein a height of said side support brackets is adjustable.

46. (previously presented): The lifter of claim 42 wherein a length of said transmission shaft is adjustable.

47. (previously presented): The lifter of claim 42 comprising six brackets.

48. (previously presented): The lifter of claim 46 comprising three cross support beams.

49. (previously presented): The lifter of claim 42 wherein said side support brackets additionally comprise a support foot attached to and adjacent said lower end of said side support brackets.

50. (previously presented): The lifter of claim 42 additionally comprising side support beams attached in perpendicular planar configuration with said side support brackets.

51. (previously presented): The lifter of claim 50 wherein said side support beams are adjustably connected to said side support brackets wherein said overall length of said lifter is thereby adjustable.

52. (currently amended): The lifter of claim 42 wherein said side support brackets comprise an upper assembly having a support frame opening provided for inserting one of said ~~at least one~~ cross support ~~beam~~ beams therethrough.

53. (previously presented): The lifter of claim 52 wherein said side support brackets additionally comprise upper and lower cross beam guides adjacent said opening.

54. (previously presented): The lifter of claim 52 additionally comprising a side support bracket brace having a side support frame hole for receipt of a cross beam table width adjustment pin.

55. (currently amended): The lifter of claim 54 wherein said ~~at least one~~ cross support ~~beam~~ ~~comprises~~ beams comprise a plurality of adjustment holes disposed near each of said opposing ends for receipt of said cross beam table width adjustment pin.

56. (currently amended): The lifter of claim 42 wherein said ~~at least one~~ cross support ~~beam~~ beams and said side support brackets are foldable in a storage configuration.

57. (currently amended): The lifter of claim 42 wherein said lifting mechanism comprises:
at least one winch;
said transmission shaft disposed through each said at least one winch;
a plurality of pulleys;
at least one cable running through each of said pulleys and through said at least one winch,
said at least one cable having opposing ends; and
at least one clamp or hook attached to at least one ~~said end~~ of said ends of each said cable.

58. (previously presented): The lifter of claim 57 wherein said transmission shaft is non-circular.

59. (currently amended): The lifter of claim 57 wherein said pulleys ~~are~~ comprise drop pulleys.

60. (currently amended): The lifter of claim 57 ~~additionally~~ wherein said at least one clamp or hook ~~is~~ comprises a spring loaded clamp or hook.

61. (currently amended): The lifter of claim 57 wherein said at least one winch is disposed at an approximate midpoint of ~~each~~ at least one of said cross support ~~beam~~ beams.

62. (currently amended): The lifter of claim 61 wherein said plurality of pulleys are disposed at points on said ~~at least one~~ cross support ~~beam~~ beams interposed between said midpoint of said ~~at least one~~ cross support ~~beam~~ beams and a point of intersection of said ~~at least one~~ cross support ~~beam~~ beams and said side support brackets.

63. (previously presented): The lifter of claim 62 wherein at least two pulleys are disposed on each said cross support beam.

64. (previously presented): The lifter of claim 57 wherein said at least one cable is disposed through said at least one winch and at least one pulley.

65. (previously presented): The lifter of claim 57 wherein said transmission shaft comprises a near end connected to said power source.

66. (previously presented): The lifter of claim 57 wherein said power source for torquing said shaft is selected from the group consisting of a motor and a manually generated force.

67. (previously presented): The lifter of claim 57 further comprising:

- a worm gear disposed at a near end of said power transmission shaft;
- a noncircular bore formed in said worm gear, said bore attachable to said transmission shaft in a manner to provide transfer of torque to said shaft;
- a worm;
- a crank handle having a crank end and a connection end, said handle attached to said worm at said connection end;
- said worm positioned in relationship to said worm gear to transfer torque from said crank handle to said worm gear.

68. (currently amended): The lifter of claim 57 wherein said at least one winch comprises a double drum winch.

69. (currently amended): The lifter of claim 57 wherein one of said at least one winch disposed nearest said power source comprises a master winch.

70. (currently amended): The lifter of claim 57 wherein said at least one winch has an internal mechanism preventing reverse movement of said cable without engaging a manual release switch.

71. (currently amended): A lifter comprising:
at least ~~two~~ four side support brackets each said side support bracket comprising an upper end, a lower end, and a support foot attached to and adjacent said lower end;
at least ~~one~~ two cross support beam beams, each said beam comprising an adjustable length and opposing ends, and connectedly disposed to said side support brackets;
~~a plurality of lifting mechanisms~~ a lifting mechanism comprising a transmission shaft, said transmission shaft connecting said at least two cross support beams; and
~~a transmission shaft; and~~
a power source connected to said transmission shaft capable of applying torque to said shaft.

72. (previously presented): The lifter of claim 71 wherein each said cross support beam is in proximate relationship with said upper end of two said side support brackets.

73. (currently amended): The lifter of claim 71 wherein each said ~~at least one~~ cross support beam is disposed in a perpendicular relationship to said side support brackets.

74. (previously presented): The lifter of claim 71 wherein a height of said support brackets is adjustable.

75. (previously presented): The lifter of claim 71 wherein a length of said transmission shaft is adjustable.

76. (previously presented): The lifter of claim 71 comprising six side support brackets.

77. (previously presented): The lifter of claim 75 comprising three cross support beams.

78. (previously presented): The lifter of claim 71 additionally comprising side support beams attached in perpendicular planar configuration with said side support brackets.

79. (previously presented): The lifter of claim 78 wherein said side support beams are adjustably connected to said side support brackets wherein said overall length of said lifter is thereby adjustable.

80. (currently amended): The lifter of claim 71 wherein said side support brackets comprise an upper assembly having a support frame opening provided for inserting one of said at least one cross support beam beams therethrough.

81. (previously presented): The lifter of claim 80 wherein said side support brackets additionally comprise upper and lower cross beam guides adjacent said opening.

82. (previously presented): The lifter of claim 80 additionally comprising a side support bracket brace having a side support frame hole for receipt of a cross beam table width adjustment pin.

83. (currently amended): The lifter of claim 82 wherein said ~~at least one~~ cross support beam ~~comprises~~ beams comprise a plurality of adjustment holes disposed near each of said opposing ends for receipt of said cross beam table width adjustment pin.

84. (previously presented): The lifter of claim 71 wherein said cross support beams and said side support brackets are foldable in a storage configuration.

85. (currently amended): The lifter of claim 71 wherein said lifting mechanism comprises:
at least one winch;
said transmission shaft disposed through each said at least one winch;
a plurality of pulleys;
at least one cable running through each of said pulleys and through sat at least one winch,
said at least one cable having opposing ends; and
at least one clamp or hook attached to at least one ~~said end~~ of said ends of each said cable.

86. (previously presented): The lifter of claim 71 wherein said transmission shaft is non-circular.

87. (currently amended): The lifter of claim 71 wherein said pulleys ~~are~~ comprise drop pulleys.

88. (currently amended): The lifter of claim 71 ~~additionally~~ wherein said at least one clamp or hook ~~is comprises~~ a spring loaded clamp or hook.

89. (currently amended): The lifter of claim 71 wherein said at least one winch is disposed at an approximate midpoint of ~~each~~ at least one of said cross support ~~beam~~ beams.

90. (currently amended): The lifter of claim 89 wherein said plurality of pulleys are disposed at points on said ~~at least one~~ cross support ~~beam~~ beams interposed between said midpoint of said ~~at least one~~ cross support ~~beam~~ beams and a point of intersection of said ~~at least one~~ cross support ~~beam~~ beams and said side support brackets.

91. (previously presented): The lifter of claim 90 wherein at least two pulleys are disposed on each said cross support beam.

92. (previously presented): The lifter of claim 71 wherein said at least one cable is disposed through said at least one winch and at least one pulley.

93. (previously presented): The lifter of claim 71 wherein said transmission shaft comprises a near end connected to said power source.

94. (previously presented): The lifter of claim 71 wherein said power source for torquing said shaft is selected from the group consisting of a motor and a manually generated force.

95. (previously presented): The lifter of claim 71 further comprising:

- a worm gear disposed at a near end of said power transmission shaft;
- a noncircular bore formed in said worm gear, said bore attachable to said transmission shaft in a manner to provide transfer of torque to said shaft;
- a worm;
- a crank handle having a crank end and a connection end, said handle attached to said worm at said connection end;
- said worm positioned in relationship to said worm gear to transfer torque from said crank handle to said worm gear.

96. (currently amended): The lifter of claim 71 wherein said at least one winch comprises a double drum winch.

97. (currently amended): The lifter of claim 71 wherein one of said at least one winch disposed nearest said power source comprises a master winch.

98. (currently amended): The lifter of claim 71 wherein said at least one winch has an internal mechanism preventing reverse movement of said cable without engaging a manual release switch.

99. (currently amended): A lifter comprising:

at least ~~two~~ four side support ~~brackets~~ brackets, each said bracket comprising an upper end, a lower end, and an upper assembly having a support frame opening provided for inserting ~~said cross beams~~ at least one cross beam therethrough;

each said at least one cross support beam comprising an adjustable length and opposing ends, ~~said cross support beam~~ and connectedly disposed to said side support brackets;

~~a plurality of lifting mechanisms~~ a lifting mechanism comprising a transmission shaft, said transmission shaft connecting said at least two cross support beams; and

~~a transmission shaft; and~~

a power source connected to said transmission shaft capable of applying torque to said shaft.

100. (previously presented): The lifter of claim 99 wherein each said cross support beam is in proximate relationship with said upper end of two said side support brackets.

101. (currently amended): The lifter of claim 99 wherein each said ~~at least one~~ cross support beam is disposed in a perpendicular relationship to said side support brackets.

102. (previously presented): The lifter of claim 99 wherein a height of said support brackets is adjustable.

103. (previously presented): The lifter of claim 99 wherein a length of said transmission shaft is adjustable.

104. (previously presented): The lifter of claim 99 comprising six side support brackets.

105. (previously presented): The lifter of claim 103 comprising three cross support beams.

106. (previously presented): The lifter of claim 99 additionally comprising side support beams attached in perpendicular planar configuration with said side support brackets.

107. (previously presented): The lifter of claim 106 wherein said side support beams are adjustably connected to said side support brackets wherein said overall length of said lifter is thereby adjustable.

108. (previously presented): The lifter of claim 99 wherein said side support brackets additionally comprise upper and lower cross beam guides adjacent said opening.

109. (previously presented): The lifter of claim 99 additionally comprising a side support bracket brace having a side support frame hole for receipt of a cross beam table width adjustment pin.

110. (previously presented): The lifter of claim 109 wherein said cross support beams comprise a plurality of adjustment holes disposed near each of said opposing ends for receipt of said crossbeam table width adjustment pin.

111. (previously presented): The lifter of claim 99 wherein said cross support beams and said side support brackets are foldable in a storage configuration.

112. (currently amended): The lifter of claim 99 wherein said lifting mechanism comprises:
at least one winch;
said transmission shaft disposed through each said at least one winch;
a plurality of pulleys;
at least one cable running through each of said pulleys and through said at least one winch, said at least one cable having opposing ends; and
at least one clamp or hook attached to at least one ~~said end~~ of said ends of each said cable.

113. (previously presented): The lifter of claim 112 wherein said transmission shaft is non-circular.

114. (currently amended): The lifter of claim 112 wherein said pulleys are comprise drop pulleys.

115. (currently amended): The lifter of claim 112 ~~additionally~~ wherein said at least one clamp or hook ~~is~~ comprises a spring loaded clamp or hook.

116. (currently amended): The lifter of claim 112 wherein said at least one winch is disposed at an approximate midpoint of ~~each~~ at least one of said cross support ~~beam~~ beams.

117. (currently amended): The lifter of claim 116 wherein said plurality of pulleys are disposed at points on said ~~at least one~~ cross support ~~beam~~ beams interposed between said midpoint of said ~~at least one~~ cross support ~~beam~~ beams and a point of intersection of said ~~at least one~~ cross support ~~beam~~ beams and said side support brackets.

118. (previously presented): The lifter of claim 117 wherein at least two pulleys are disposed on each said cross support beam.

119. (previously presented): The lifter of claim 112 wherein said at least one cable is disposed through said at least one winch and at least one pulley.

120. (previously presented): The lifter of claim 112 wherein said transmission shaft comprises a near end connected to said power source.

121. (previously presented): The lifter of claim 112 wherein said power source for torquing said shaft is selected from the group consisting of a motor and a manually generated force.

122. (previously presented): The lifter of claim 112 further comprising:
a worm gear disposed at a near end of said power transmission shaft;
a noncircular bore formed in said worm gear, said bore attachable to said transmission shaft in a manner to provide transfer of torque to said shaft;
a worm;
a crank handle having a crank end and a connection end, said handle attached to said worm at said connection end;
said worm positioned in relationship to said worm gear to transfer torque from said crank handle to said worm gear.

123. (currently amended): The lifter of claim 112 wherein said at least one winch comprises a double drum winch.

124. (currently amended): The lifter of claim 112 wherein one of said at least one winch disposed nearest said power source comprises a master winch.

125. (currently amended): The lifter of claim 112 wherein said at least one winch has an internal mechanism preventing reverse movement of said cable without engaging a manual release switch.

126. (currently amended): A lifter comprising:

at least ~~two~~ four side support brackets each said side support bracket comprising an upper end and a lower end;

at least ~~one~~ two cross support ~~beam~~ beams, each said beam comprising an adjustable length and opposing ends, ~~said cross support beam~~ and connectedly disposed to said side support brackets;

~~a plurality of lifting mechanisms;~~

~~a transmission shaft; and~~

a power source connected to said transmission shaft capable of applying torque to said shaft; and

a lifting mechanism comprising:

a transmission shaft, said transmission shaft connecting said at least two cross support beams;

at least one winch;

said transmission shaft disposed through each said at least one winch;

a plurality of pulleys;

at least one cable running through each of said pulleys and through at least one winch, said at least one cable having opposing ends; and

at least one clamp or hook attached to at least one ~~said end~~ of said ends of each said cable.

127. (previously presented): The lifter of claim 126 wherein each said cross support beam is in proximate relationship with said upper end of two said side support brackets.

128. (currently amended): The lifter of claim 126 wherein each said ~~at least one~~ cross support beam is disposed in a perpendicular relationship to said side support brackets.

129. (previously presented): The lifter of claim 126 wherein a height of said support brackets is adjustable.

130. (previously presented): The lifter of claim 126 wherein a length of said transmission shaft is adjustable.

131. (previously presented): The lifter of claim 126 comprising six side support brackets.

132. (previously presented): The lifter of claim 130 comprising three cross support beams.

133. (previously presented): The lifter of claim 126 additionally comprising side support beams attached in perpendicular planar configuration with said side support brackets.

134. (previously presented): The lifter of claim 133 wherein said side support beams are adjustably connected to said side support brackets wherein said overall length of said lifter is thereby adjustable.

135. (previously presented): The lifter of claim 126 wherein said side support brackets additionally comprise upper and lower cross beam guides adjacent said opening.

136. (previously presented): The lifter of claim 126 additionally comprising a side support bracket brace having a side support frame hole for receipt of a cross beam table width adjustment pin.

137. (currently amended): The lifter of claim 136 wherein said cross support beams comprise a plurality of adjustment holes disposed near each of said opposing ends for receipt of said ~~crossbeam~~ cross beam table width adjustment pin.

138. (previously presented): The lifter of claim 126 wherein said cross support beams and said side support brackets are foldable in a storage configuration.

139. (previously presented): The lifter of claim 126 wherein said transmission shaft is non-circular.

140. (currently amended): The lifter of claim 126 wherein said pulleys ~~are~~ comprise drop pulleys.

141. (currently amended): The lifter of claim 126 ~~additionally~~ wherein said at least one clamp or hook is comprises a spring loaded clamp or hook.

142. (currently amended): The lifter of claim 126 wherein said at least one winch is disposed at an approximate midpoint of ~~each~~ at least one of said cross support ~~beam~~ beams.

143. (previously presented): The lifter of claim 142 wherein said plurality of pulleys are disposed at points on said ~~at least one~~ cross support ~~beam~~ beams interposed between said midpoint of said ~~at least one~~ cross support ~~beam~~ beams and a point of intersection of said ~~at least one~~ cross support ~~beam~~ beams and said side support brackets.

144. (previously presented): The lifter of claim 143 wherein at least two pulleys are disposed on each said cross support beam.

145. (previously presented): The lifter of claim 126 wherein said at least one cable is disposed through said at least one winch and at least one pulley.

146. (previously presented): The lifter of claim 126 wherein said transmission shaft comprises a near end connected to said power source.

147. (previously presented): The lifter of claim 126 wherein said power source for torquing said shaft is selected from the group consisting of a motor and a manually generated force.

148. (previously presented): The lifter of claim 126 further comprising:
a worm gear disposed at a near end of said power transmission shaft;
a noncircular bore formed in said worm gear, said bore attachable to said transmission shaft in a manner to provide transfer of torque to said shaft;
a worm;
a crank handle having a crank end and a connection end, said handle attached to said worm at said connection end;
said worm positioned in relationship to said worm gear to transfer torque from said crank handle to said worm gear.

149. (currently amended): The lifter of claim 126 wherein said at least one winch comprises a double drum winch.

150. (currently amended): The lifter of claim 126 wherein one of said at least one winch disposed nearest said power source comprises a master winch.

151. (currently amended): The lifter of claim 126 wherein said at least one winch has an internal mechanism preventing reverse movement of said cable without engaging a manual release switch.

152. (new): A lifter comprising:

at least two support brackets, each said support bracket comprising an upper end and a lower end;

at least one cross support beam comprising an adjustable length and opposing ends, each said end connectedly disposed on one said end of one said support bracket;

a lifting mechanism connected to said support beam, said lifting mechanism comprising at least one clamp or hook for attachment to a slate surface; and

a power source connected to said transmission shaft capable of applying torque to said transmission shaft.

153. (new): The lifter of claim 152 wherein said lifting mechanism comprises:

at least one winch;

a plurality of pulleys;

at least one cable running through each of said pulleys and through said at least one winch, said cable having opposing ends; and

said at least one clamp or hook attached to at least one said end of each said cable.